

Remarks/Arguments

This application has been carefully considered in light of the non-final office action mailed August 26, 2009. As a result, claims 1-6 and 10 have been amended to more distinctly defined the invention as it relates to the prior art cited by the Examiner. Claims 7-9 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice to applicants rights to file a divisional patent application with respect thereto.

The specification has been amended to provide appropriate headings and subheadings and no new matter has been added. It would be appreciated if the Examiner would indicate the acceptance of these amendments in the next office communication.

The objection to the term "globally" has been met by changing the language of the claims. The term was used to mean substantially or completely. Please note that in the embodiments where one of the flanges includes a heel portion for spacing, the term was used as substantially.

Claims 1-5 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being directly anticipated in view of the reference to Mizuguchi et al, JP 07243146. Claim 6 has been rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious and thus unpatentable over a combination of the teachings of Mizuguchi et al and Palau, US Patent 4,716,939. The cited references have been considered but do not teach nor make obvious the present invention as set forth in the claims as amended herein.

It should be noted that the reference to Mizuguchi et al was cited in the International Search Report of parent application PCT/FR2005/00724 as only being representative of the background art and thus was cited as a category "A" reference. To assist the Examiner in completely understanding the teachings of this reference, an English Translation thereof is submitted herewith. From the translation it is clear that the orientation of the recesses in the core of the lever are on the same face or side of the core and not on opposites faces, as is the case with the present invention. In the reference, the flanges (28) fitted on the core of the lever (2) are located on the same face, as clearly shown in Figs. 4 and 5. It should be noted that the recess 3A and 3B are on the same face of the core. Therefore, the structure and positioning of the flanges can not create the same spacing as defined by the present invention for mounting the two rollers.

The orientation of the depressions or recesses being on opposite faces of the core and with the first of the two pair of flanges being oppositely oriented when seated with the recesses is an important feature of the present invention. The oppositely oriented depressions or recesses allow an appropriate spacing of a first of each of the two pair of opposing flanges to be seated relative to a central plane of the core so that the two rollers will be appropriately spaced on opposite sides of the central plane in order to balance forces transmitted between the rollers and the two cams of the cam mechanism. In this manner, a balanced force is place on the lever.

In addition to the foregoing, the second flange of each pair of flanges for supporting the two rollers is spaced at a predetermined distance (E) from the opposing flange either by a separate spacer, by providing each second flange with a heel member or providing the core member itself with at least one heel. Such positive spacing of the flanges is not taught in the reference to Mizuguchi et al.

Claim 2-6 and 11 are not believed anticipated for the reasons set forth above. In addition, the technical problem solved by the present invention of maintaining a distance (E) between the first and second flanges of each set of flanges

cannot occur in the device of Mizuguchi et al as only one flange (28) is fitted on the core part of the lever (2).

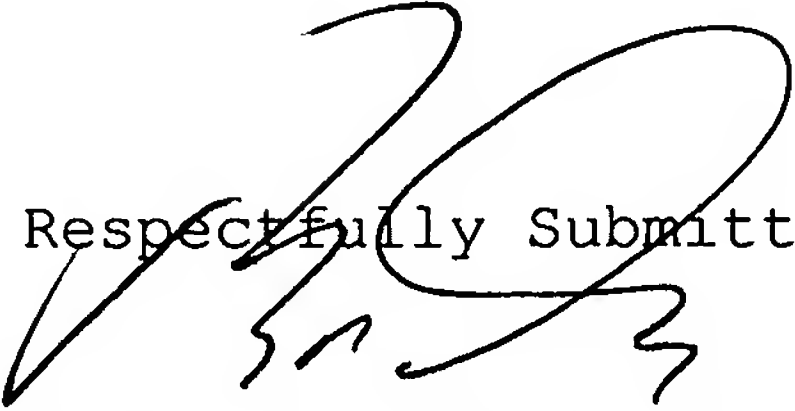
With respect to claim 3, the flange (28) of Mizuguchi et al does not form a heel spacer in the same manner as that of the present invention for appropriately maintaining spacing of first and second flanges. Also, there is no teaching of providing the core of the lever with such a heel spacer.

The amendment to claim 5 to further distinguish the invention over the art is supported at page 6, second paragraph of the current application. The structure of Mizuguchi et al cannot meet such limitations.

With respect to claim 6, the secondary reference to Palau does not teach the differences set forth above between the currently claimed invention and the reference to Mizuguchi et al and thus the combination would not anticipate the combination of claims 1 and 6.

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and allowance of the claims remaining is solicited.

Should there be any questions regarding this response or the amendments submitted herewith, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number shown below.


Respectfully Submitted;

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